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⑮ Cosmetic composition containing a lipid and a hydroxy or ketacarboxylic acid.

⑯ The use of a composition for topical application to skin comprising :
(i) a selected lipid component ;
(ii) a selected organic acid component ; and
(iii) a cosmetically acceptable vehicle ;
for treatment of dry skin conditions.

FIELD OF THE INVENTION

5 The invention relates to the use of a cosmetic composition for topical application to skin comprising a lipid component, selected organic acids and a cosmetically acceptable vehicle for the treatment of dry skin conditions.

BACKGROUND TO THE INVENTION AND PRIOR ART

10 It is generally understood that ceramides present within the intercellular lipid lamellae of the stratum corneum play an important role in the production and maintenance of the water permeability barrier of the skin. Ceramides, or substances closely related to them, have been widely disclosed as components of skin care compositions.

15 For example Unilever NV in EP 0 097 059 disclosed the vital role played by ω -linoleoyl ceramides in the water barrier of the skin and described the synthesis and application for skin care of such ω -substituted ceramides.

Also Kao Corporation, in GB 2 178 312 and GB 2 213 723, disclose the use of natural ceramides extracted from skin in topical products, and in EPO 227 994, they disclose synthetic analogues of ceramides.

20 These intercellular lipid lamellae are also known to contain other lipids such as sterols and fatty acids. It is believed that one of the causes of dry skin is a reduction in the amount of lipid contained within these intercellular lipid lamellae. It is therefore desirable to be able successfully to replace these depleted lipids via the topical route.

25 Lamellae, however, are not static structures but are dynamic with considerable mobility of individual lipids within each distinct layer. The relative mobility or fluidity of these layers is a factor which is fundamentally important to the ultimate state and condition of the skin.

Recent work within Unilever suggests that changes in membrane or bilayer fluidity could contribute to the 30 etiology of skin conditions, such as dryness, dandruff, spots and pimples.

A two-fold problem therefore exists, firstly it is desirable to be able successfully to replace these depleted lipids and this involves devising a suitable method for delivering these lipids effectively to the lipid lamellae, and secondly it is also desirable to re-establish the required mobility of these layers.

35 We have now solved this problem by the a cosmetic composition for topical application to skin hair or nails comprising:

- (i) selected lipid components
- (ii) selected organic acids
- (iii) a suitable cosmetic vehicle

for the treatment of dry skin conditions.

Organic acids such as hydroxy acids have been previously disclosed as beneficial for a wide range of skin disorders. Furthermore EP 273 202 (Van Scott) discloses the use of specific hydroxycarboxylic acids to enhance the percutaneous penetration or therapeutic efficacy of cosmetic and pharmaceutical agents.

40 Surprisingly we have now shown that specific organic acids considerably effect the mobility or phase behaviour of the lipid lamellae of the stratum corneum. Furthermore we have shown that the use of a cosmetic composition comprising both hydroxy acids and specific lipid components is able to both deliver the lipid components to the lipid lamellae and re-establish the fluidity of these lamellae hence alleviating dry skin conditions.

SUMMARY OF THE INVENTION

45 The invention accordingly provides for the use of a composition for topical application to skin, hair or nails comprising:

- (i) a lipid component chosen from ceramides, pseudoceramides, polyol fatty acid polyesters, phospholipids, galactosyldiacylglycerols, glycosphingolipids, succinic acid derivatives, and mixtures thereof;
- (ii) an organic acid component chosen from hydroxy carboxylic acids, keto carboxylic acids, esters thereof and mixtures thereof; and
- (iii) a cosmetically acceptable vehicle.

for the treatment and/or alleviation of dry skin conditions.

DISCLOSURE OF THE INVENTIONThe lipid component

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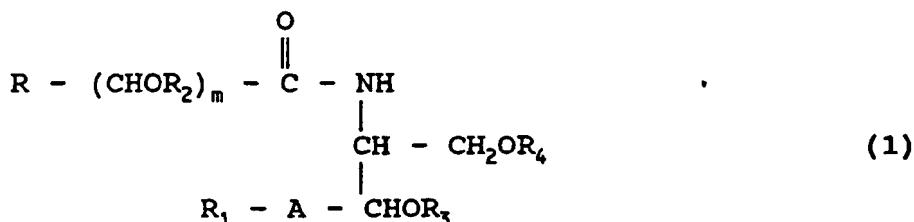
The lipid component is chosen from ceramides, pseudoceramides, polyol fatty acid polyesters, sterols, phospholipids, galactosyldiacylglycerols, glycosphingolipids, fatty acids, esters thereof and mixtures thereof.

Ceramides

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Ceramides are preferably selected from ceramides having the general structure (1)

15



20

where A represents - CH_2 -; - CHOR_5 -; - $\text{CH}=\text{CH}$ - or - CHOY -

R represents a linear or branched saturated or unsaturated, hydroxylated or non-hydroxylated aliphatic hydrocarbon group having from 1 to 49 carbon atoms or a subgroup (2).

25

$\text{Y} - \text{O} - (\text{C}_a\text{H}_b) - \quad (2)$

R_1 represents a linear or branched, saturated or unsaturated, hydroxylated or non-hydroxylated aliphatic hydrocarbon group having from 8 to 28 carbon atoms;

R_2 , R_3 and R_5 individually represent H, a phosphate residue or a sulphate residue;

R_4 represents H, a phosphate residue, a sulphate residue or a sugar residue;

30

a is an integer of from 7 to 49

b is an integer of from 10 to 98

m is 0 or 1

Y represents H or a residue of a C_{14-22} fatty acid having the general structure (3)

35



40

where

Z is - OH or an epoxy oxygen

x is an integer of from 12 to 20

y is an integer of from 20 to 40

45

and

z is O or an integer of from 1 to 4

Ceramides having the general structure (1) are naturally occurring and can be isolated from a suitable plant source or from animal tissue such as pig skin or neural tissue. Ceramides can also be synthesised.

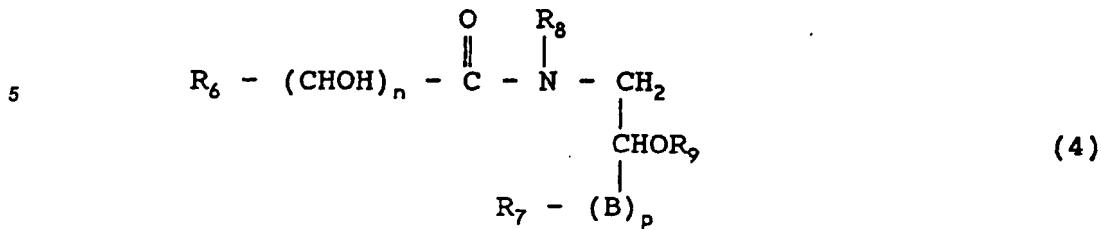
Particular preferred examples of ceramides are ceramide-1 and ceramide-2.

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Pseudoceramides

Pseudoceramides are preferably selected from pseudoceramides (ie synthetic ceramide like structures) having the general structure (4):

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where B represents $-\text{OCH}_2-$ or CHOH .

R_6 represents a linear or branched, saturated or unsaturated, hydroxylated or non-hydroxylated aliphatic hydrocarbon group having from 1 to 49 carbon atoms or the subgroup (2).

15 R_7 represents a linear or branched, saturated or unsaturated, hydroxylated or non-hydroxylated hydrocarbon group having from 8 to 28 carbon atoms.

R_8 represents H, or a subgroup $-\text{(CH}_2\text{)}_c\text{COOH}$, where c is an integer of from 1 to 6, or a subgroup having the structure (5).

20



25

where X_1 , X_2 and X_3 each individually represent H, a C_{1-5} alkyl or a C_{1-5} hydroxyalkyl;

d is 0 or an integer of from 1 to 4

e is 0 or 1

30

n is 0 or 1

and

p is 0 or 1;

R_9 represents H, a phosphate residue, a sulphate residue or a sugar residue.

35

Polyol fatty acid polyesters

Polyol fatty acid polyesters are fatty acid polyesters derived from any aliphatic or aromatic polyol which has at least 4 free hydroxyl groups, of which at least 60% of these free hydroxyl groups are then esterified with one or more fatty acids having from 8 to 22 carbon atoms.

40

The polyol from which the polyol fatty acid polyesters are derived are preferably chosen from sugar polyols, which comprise mono-, di- and polysaccharides.

Preferred examples of monosaccharide sugar polyols include:

Pentose sugar polyols such as D-ribose, D-arabinose, D-xylose, D-lyxose, D-ribulose and D-xylulose.

45

Hexose sugar polyols such as D-allose, D-altrose, D-glucose, D-mannose, D-gulose, D-idose, D-galactose, D-talose, D-fructose, D-sorbitose and D-tagatose.

Heptose sugar polyols, such as D-mannoheptulose and D-sedoheptulose.

The polyol from which the polyol fatty acid polyester is derived can also be chosen from:

disaccharides such as maltose, lactose, cellobiose, sucrose, trehalose, gentiobiose, melibiose and primoverose;

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tri-saccharides, such as gentianose and raffinose;

sugar alcohols such as D-mannitol, D-sorbitol, D-ribitol, D-erithritol, D-lactitol and D-xylitol; and derivatives of sugars such as α -methyl glucoside and inositol.

The preferred sugar polyol is sucrose.

55

The fatty acids which are employed to form the polyol fatty acid polyesters of the invention can be individual free fatty acids having from 8 to 22 carbon atoms in the fatty acid molecule.

These fatty acids can be saturated or unsaturated, linear or branched chain fatty acids.

A preferred source of fatty acids for forming the polyol fatty acid polyesters are naturally occurring fats and oils which provide a source of a blend of fatty acids residues, whose choice can vary widely the physical

and chemical properties of the polyol fatty acid polyesters obtained therefrom.

These naturally occurring fats and oils can be used as obtained from nature or following full or partial hydrogenation, interesterification, transesterification or fractionation.

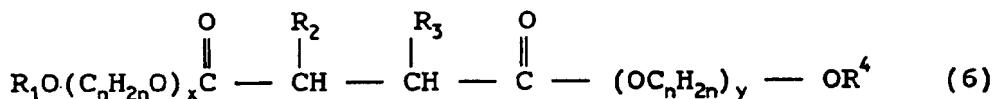
5 Suitable natural sources of these fatty acid residues may be of animal, marine or vegetable origin, such as tallow, lanolin oil, cod liver oil, halibut liver oil, other fish oils, coconut oil, palmkernel oil, palm oil, butter fat, soyabean oil, safflower oil, cotton seed oil, rapeseed oil, poppy seed oil, corn oil, sunflower oil, ground nut oil and mixtures thereof. Preferred fatty acid sources are palm oils, partially hydrogenated palm oils, palmkernel oils, optionally partially hydrogenated soya bean oils and partially hydrogenated fish oils.

10 By employing a mixture of fatty acids, or one or more naturally occurring oils such as those exemplified above, when synthesising the polyol fatty acid polyester, it is possible to provide polyol fatty acid polyesters in which a mixture of ester groups is present on a single polyol molecule. In this way it is possible to vary the melting characteristics of the polyol fatty acid polyester so formed as desired.

15 Particularly preferred polyol fatty acid polyesters are sucrose fatty acid polyesters where the ester is derived from lauric acid or natural oils, such as palm oil, palm kernal oil, soyabean oil, coconut oil, fish oil and mixtures thereof.

Succinic acid derivatives

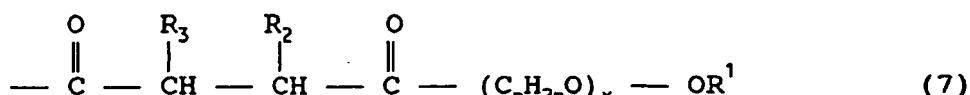
20 Suitable succinic acid derivatives have the general structure (6)



25 in which R_1 represents an alkyl, alkenyl, mono- or dihydroxyalkyl or hydroxyalkenyl group having from 6-22 carbon atoms;

30 R_2 and R_3 individually represent H or an alkyl or alkenyl group having from 12 to 22 carbon atoms; providing that when R_2 is H, R_3 is an alkyl or alkenyl group and when R_3 is H, R_2 is an alkyl or alkenyl group;

R_4 represents hydrogen, an alkyl, alkenyl, mono- or dihydroxyalkyl or hydroxyalkenyl group having from 6 to 22 carbon atoms or the group (7):



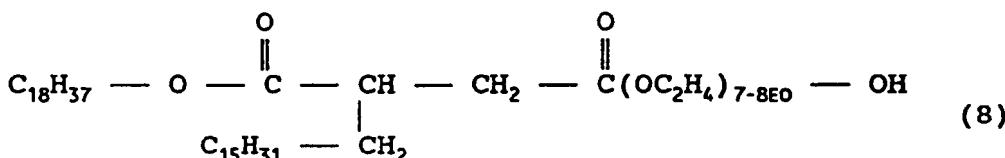
35 n is an integer of from 2 to 3

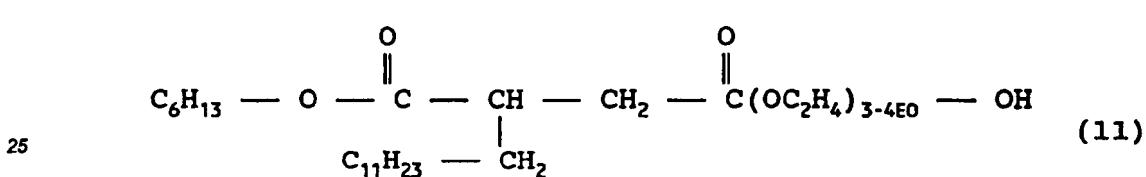
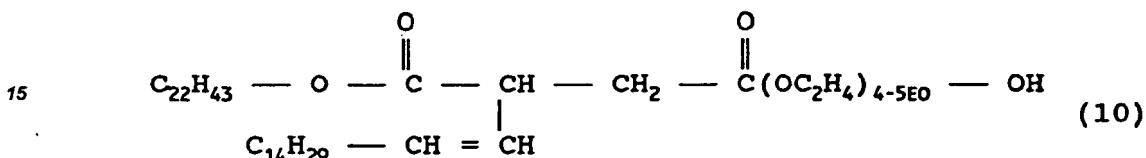
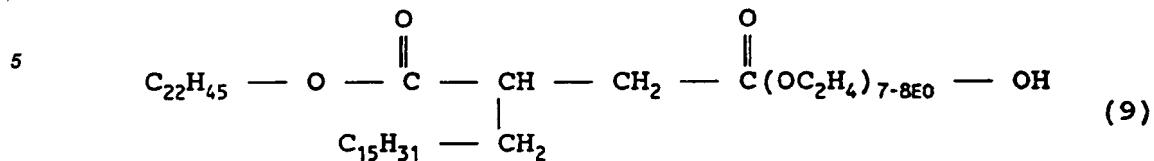
40 x and y are average degrees of alkoxylation, namely x is from 0 to 20 and y is from 1 to 20; and

In structure (6), the group R_4 preferably represents H, while the group R_1 preferably represents an alkyl group having from 16 to 22 carbon atoms and most preferably from 20 to 22 carbon atoms.

Also with reference to structure (6), n and m are preferably 2 and $(x+y)$ is preferably from 1 to 20.

Specific examples of these succinic acid derivatives are those having the structures (8) to (12):





The composition according to the invention may contain more than one succinic acid derivative having the structure (6). In particular, it may be advantageous to incorporate at least two derivatives wherein for one derivative at least one of R_1 and R_2/R_3 is an alkenyl or hydroxyalkenyl group and for the second derivative both R_1 and R_2/R_3 are alkyl or hydroxyalkyl groups. A particularly preferred example of such a composition is one comprising structure (8) and structure (10).

Suitable methods of synthesising these succinic acid derivatives are disclosed in the GB patent application number 9223578.7.

Preferably the lipid components (i) is selected from ceramides having the structure (1), pseudoceramides having the structure (4), phospholipids, polyol fatty acid polyesters, succinic acid derivatives having the structure (6) and mixtures thereof.

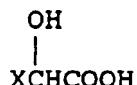
Preferably the amount of the lipid component (i) present in the composition according to the invention is from 0.00001 to 50%, more preferably from 0.001 to 20% and most preferably from 0.1 to 10% by weight.

50 The organic acid component

The organic acid component is chosen from hydroxy carboxylic acids and keto carboxylic acids, esters thereof and mixtures thereof.

The hydroxy acid can be chosen from α -hydroxy acids, β -hydroxyacids, other hydroxycarboxylic acids and mixtures thereof.

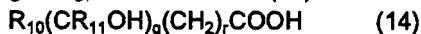
Preferably the hydroxy acid (ii) is chosen from α -hydroxy acids having the general structure (13):



(13)

5 where X is H - or $\text{CH}_3(\text{C}_\text{H}_\text{g})_\text{h}$ -
 f is an integer of from 1 to 27,
 g is an integer of from 2 to 54, and
 10 h is 0 or 1.

hydroxymonocarboxylic acids having the general structure (14):

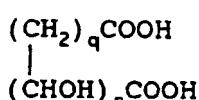


where R_{10} and R_{11} are individually H or an alkyl, aralkyl or aryl group of saturated, unsaturated, branched or unbranched chain or cyclic form having from 1 to 25 carbon atoms

15 where

q is an integer of from 1 to 9, and
 r is 0 or an integer of from 1 to 23;

hydroxydicarboxylic acids having the general structure (15)



(15)

25 where

q is an integer of from 1 to 9, and
 r is 0 or an integer of from 1 to 23;

hydroxycarboxylic acids having the general structure (16)



30 where q and s are individually an integer of from 1 to 9;

and R_{12} is H, alkyl, aralkyl or aryl group of saturated or unsaturated, straight or branched chain or cyclic form having from 1 to 25 carbon atoms;

and mixtures thereof.

More preferably the organic acid compound (ii) is an α -hydroxy acid having the general structure (13). Even 35 more preferably the hydroxy acid is chosen from 2-hydroxyoctanoic acid, lactic acid, and glycolic acid, and mixtures thereof.

The keto acids can be chosen from α -keto acids, β -keto acids and mixtures thereof.

A particularly preferred α -keto acid is 2-keto octanoic acid.

Preferably the amount of the organic acid component (ii) present in the composition according to the invention 40 is from 0.01 to 20%, more preferably from 0.05 to 10% and most preferably from 0.1 to 2% by weight.

Sterols

Preferably the cosmetic composition additionally comprises sterols.

45 Sterols are preferably selected from cholesterol, pro-vitamin D₃, campesterol, stigmastanol, stigmasterol, 5-dihydrocholesterol, α -spinasterol, palysterol, clionasterol, γ -sitosterol, stigmastenol, sargasterol, avenasterol, ergostanol, sitosterol, corbisterol, chondrillasterol, poriferasterol, haliclonaseterol, neospongosterol, fucosterol, aptostanol, Ergostadienol, ergosterol, 22-dihydroergosterol, brassicasterol, 24-methylenecholesterol, 5-dihydroergosterol, dehydroergosterol, 14-dehydroergosterol, 24-dehydroergosterol, fungisterol, cholestanol, 50 coprostanol, Zymosterol, 7-hetcholesterol, Lathosterol, 22-dehydrocholesterol, β -sitosterol, cholestatrien-3 β -ol, coprostanol, cholestanol, ergosterol, 7-dehydrocholesterol, 24-dehydrocholest-adiene-3 β -ol, equilenin, equilin, estrone, 17 β -estradiol, Androst-4-ene-3 β , 17 β -diol, dehydroepiandrosterone and mixtures thereof.

55 More preferably the sterol is selected from cholesterol, any plant sterol, pro-vitamin D₃, 5-dihydrocholesterol and mixtures thereof.

Even more preferably the sterol is cholesterol.

Fatty acids

Preferably the cosmetic composition additionally comprises fatty acids.

5 The fatty acids are preferably essential fatty acids chosen from linoleic acid, γ -linolenic acid, homo- γ -linolenic acid, columbinic acid, eicosa-(n-6,9,13)-trienoic acid, arachidonic acid, α -linolenic acid, timnodonic acid, hexaenoic acid and mixtures thereof.

Non-essential fatty acids can also be employed in addition to or in place of essential fatty acids, examples of which are chosen from myristic, palmitic, stearic and isostearic acids, and mixtures thereof.

10 Most preferably the cosmetic composition additionally comprises both fatty acid and sterol.

The Cosmetically Acceptable Vehicle

The composition according to the invention also comprises a cosmetically acceptable aqueous or non-aqueous vehicle to act as a dilutant, dispersant or carrier for the lipid component (i) and hydroxy acid (ii) in the composition, so as to facilitate its distribution when the composition is applied to the skin, hair and/or nails.

15 Vehicles other than water can include liquid or solid emollients, solvents, humectants, thickeners and powders. Examples of each of these types of vehicle, which can be used singly or as mixtures of one or more vehicles, are as follows:

20 Emollients, such as stearyl alcohol, glyceryl monoricinoleate, glyceryl monostearate, mink oil, cetyl alcohol, isoproopyl isostearatae, stearic acid, isobutyl palmitate, isocetyl stearate, oleyl alcohol, isopropyl laurate, hexyl laurate, decyl oleate, octadecan-2-ol, isocetyl alcohol, eicosanyl alcohol, behenyl alcohol, cetyl palmitate, volatile or non-volatile silicone oils such as dimethylpolysiloxane, di-n-butyl sebacate, isopropyl myristate, isopropyl palmitate, isopropyl stearate, butyl stearate, polyethylene glycol, triethylene glycol, lanolin, cocoa butter, corn oil, cotton seed oil, tallow, lard, olive oil, palm kernel oil, rapeseed oil, safflower seed oil, evening primrose oil, soybean oil, sunflower seed oil, passion flower oil, avocado oil, olive oil, sesame seed oil, coconut oil, arachis oil, castor oil, acetylated lanolin alcohols, petroleum jelly, mineral oil, butyl myristate, isostearic acid, palmitic acid, isopropyl linoleate, lauryl lactate, myristyl lactate, decyl oleate, myristyl myristate;

25 Propellants, such as air, propane, butane, isobutane, dimethyl ether, carbon dioxide, nitrous oxide;

30 Solvents, such as ethyl alcohol, methylene chloride, isopropanol, acetone, squalane, squalene, ethylene glycol monoethyl ether, diethylene glycol monobutyl ether, diethylene glycol monoethyl ether, polyethylene glycol, dimethyl sulphoxide, dimethyl formamide, butylene glycol, tetrahydrofuran;

35 Powders, such as chalk, talc, fullers earth, kaolin, starch, gums, colloidal silica sodium polyacrylate, tetra alkyl and/or trialkyl aryl ammonium smectites, chemically modified magnesium aluminium silicate, organically modified montmorillonite clay, hydrated aluminium silicate, fumed silica, carboxyvinyl polymer, sodium carboxymethyl cellulose, ethylene glycol monostearate.

The cosmetically acceptable vehicle will usually form from 10 to 99.9%, preferably from 50 to 99% by weight of the emulsion, and can, in the absence of other cosmetic adjuncts, form the balance of the composition.

40 OPTIONAL SKIN BENEFIT MATERIALS AND COSMETIC ADJUNCTS

Although the composition according to the invention can be aqueous or non-aqueous, a particularly convenient form is an emulsion, in which case an oil or oily material will normally be present, together with an emulsifier to provide a water-in-oil emulsion, an oil-in-water emulsion, or a complex emulsion, depending largely on the average hydrophilic-lyophilic balance (HLB) of the emulsifier employed.

Oil or oily material

50 The composition according to the invention can optionally comprise one or more oils or other materials having the properties of an oil.

Examples of suitable oils include mineral oil and vegetable oils, and oil materials, such as those already proposed herein as emollients. Other oils or oily materials include silicone oils, both volatile and non-volatile, such as polydimethyl siloxanes.

55 The oil or oily material, when present for the purposes for forming an emulsion, will normally form up to 90%, preferably from 10 to 80% by volume of the composition.

Emulsifier

The composition according to the invention can also optionally comprise one or more emulsifiers the choice

of which will normally determine whether a water-in-oil or and oil-in-water emulsion is formed.

When a water-in-oil emulsion is required, the chosen emulsifier or emulsifiers should normally have an average HLB value of from 1 to 6. When an oil-in-water emulsion is required, a chosen emulsifier or emulsifiers should have an average HLB value of >6.

5 Examples of suitable emulsifiers are set below in Table 1 in which the chemical name of the emulsifiers is given together with an example of a trade name as commercially available, and the average HLB value.

10 Table 1

	Chemical Name of Emulsifier	Trade Name	HLB Value
	Sorbitan trioleate	Arlacel 85	1.8
20	Sorbitan tristearate	Span 65	2.1
	Glycerol monoleate	Aldo MD	2.7
	Glycerol monostearate	Atmul 84S	2.8
	Glycerol monolaurate	Aldo MC	3.3
25	Sorbitan sesquioleate	Arlacel 83	3.7
	Sorbitan monooleate	Arlacel 80	4.3
	Sorbitan monostearate	Arlacel 60	4.7
30	Poloxyethylene (2)		

35

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	stearyl ether	Brij 72	4.9
5	Poloxoxyethylene sorbitol beeswax derivative	G-1702	5
	PEG 200 dilaurate	Emerest 2622	6.3
	Sorbitan monopalmitate	Arlacel 40	6.7
10	Polyoxyethylene (3.5) nonyl phenol	Emulgen 903	7.8
	PEG 200 monostearate	Tegester PEG 200 MS	8.5
15	Sorbitan monolaurate	Arlacel 200 400-DO	8.6 8.8
	Polyoxyethylene (5) monostearate	Ethofat 60-16	9.0
20	Polyoxyethylene (4) sorbitan monostearate	Tween 61	9.6
25	Polyoxyethylene (4) lauryl ether	Brij 30	9.7
	Polyoxyethylene (5) sorbitan monooleate	Tween 81	10.0
30	PEG 300 monooleate	Neutronyx 834	10.4
	Polyoxyethylene (20) sorbitan tristearate	Tween 65	10.5
35	Polyoxyethylene (20) sorbitan trioleate	Tween 85	11.0
	Polyoxyethylene (8) monostearate	Myrj 45	11.1
40	PEG 400 monooleate	Emerest 2646	11.7
	PEG 400 monostearate	Tegester PEG 400	11.9
	Polyoxyethylene 10 monooleate	Ethofat 0/20	12.2
45	Polyoxyethylene (10) stearyl ether	Brij 76	12.4
	Polyoxyethylene (10) cetyl ether	Brij 56	12.9
50	Polyoxyethylene (9.3) octyl phenol	Triton X-100	13.0

	Polyoxyethylene (4)		
5	sorbitan monolaurate	Tween 21	13.3
	PEG 600 monooleate	Emerest 2660	13.7
	PEG 1000 dilaurate	Kessco	13.9
	Polyoxyethylene sorbitol		
10	lanolin derivative	G-1441	14.0
	Polyoxyethylene (12)		
	lauryl ether	Ethosperse LA-12	14.4
	PEG 1500 dioleate	Pegosperse 1500	14.6
15	Polyoxyethylene (14)		
	laurate	Arosurf HFL-714	14.8
	Polyoxyethylene (20)		
20	sorbitan monostearate	Tween	14.9
	Polyoxyethylene 20 sorbitan		
	monooleate	Tween 80	15.0
	Polyoxyethylene (20)		
25	stearyl ether	Brij 78	15.3
	Polyoxyethylene (20)		
	sorbitan monopalmitate	Tween 40	15.6
30	Polyoxyethylene (20) cetyl		
	ether	Brij 58	15.7
	Polyoxyethylene (25)		
35	oxypropylene	G-2162	16.0
	monostearate		
	Polyoxyethylene (20)		
	sorbitol monolaurate	Tween 20	16.7
40	Polyoxyethylene (23)		
	lauryl ether	Brij 35	16.9
	Polyoxyethylene (50)		
	monostearatae	Myrj 53	17.9
45	PEG 4000 monostearate	Pegosperse 4000	
		MS	18.7

50

The foregoing list of emulsifiers is not intended to be limiting and merely exemplifies selected emulsifiers which are suitable for use in accordance with the invention.

It is to be understood that two or more emulsifiers can be employed if desired.

55 The amount of emulsifier or mixtures thereof, to be incorporated in the composition of the invention, when appropriate is from 1 to 50%, preferably from 2 to 20% and most preferably from 2 to 10% by weight of the composition.

Water

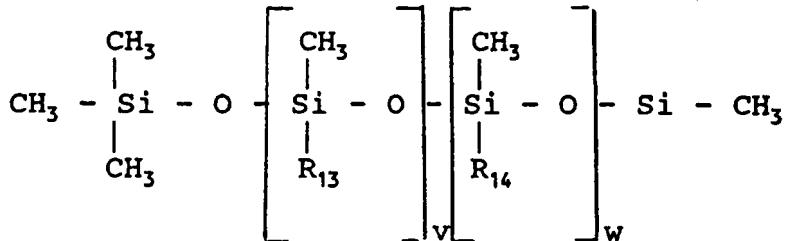
5 Although the composition of the invention can be anhydrous, it can also comprise water, usually up to 98%, preferably from 5 to 80% by volume.

Silicone Surfactant

10 The composition of the invention can also optionally comprise a high molecular weight silicone surfactant which can also act as an emulsifier, in place of or in addition to the optional emulsifier(s) already mentioned.

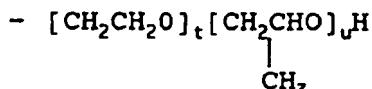
The silicone surfactant is a high molecular weight polymer of dimethyl polysiloxane with polyoxyethylene and/or polyoxypropylene side chains having a molecular weight of from 10,000 to 50,000 and having the structure:

15



20

25 where the groups R_{13} and R_{14} are each chosen from -H, C_{1-18} alkyl and



30

t has a value of from 9 to 115,

u has a value of from 0 to 50,

v has a value of from 133 to 673,

35 w has a value of from 25 to 0.25.

Preferably, the dimethyl polysiloxane polymer is one in which:

t has a value of from 10 to 114

u has a value of from 0 to 49

v has a value of from 388 to 402

40 w has a value of from 15 to 0.75

one of groups R_{13} and R_{14} being lauryl, and the other having a molecular weight of from 1000 to 5000.

A particularly preferred dimethyl polysiloxane polymer is one in which:

t has the value 14

u has the value 13

45 v has the value 249

w has the value 1.25

The dimethyl polysiloxane polymer is conveniently provided as a dispersion in a volatile siloxane, the dispersion comprising, for example, from 1 to 20% by volume of the polymer and from 80 to 99% by volume of the volatile siloxane. Ideally, the dispersion consists of a 10% by volume of the polymer dispersed in the volatile siloxane.

Examples of the volatile siloxanes in which the polysiloxane polymer can be dispersed include polydimethyl siloxane (pentamer and/or hexamer).

A particularly preferred silicone surfactant is cyclomethicone and dimethicone copolyol, such as DC 3225C Formulation Aid available from DOW CORNING. Another is laurylmethicone copolyol, such as DC Q2-5200, also available from Dow Corning.

The amount of silicone surfactant, when present in the composition will normally be up to 25%, preferably from 0.5 to 15% by weight of the emulsion.

Other Adjuncts

5 Examples of conventional adjuncts which can optionally be employed include preservatives, such as para-hydroxy benzoate esters; antioxidants, such as α -tocopherol, humectants, such as glycerol, sorbitol, 2-pyrrolidone-5-carboxylate, dibutylphthalate, gelatin, polyethylene, glycol, preferably PEG 200-600; buffers, such as lactic acid together with a base such as triethanolamine or sodium hydroxide; surfactants, such as glycerol ethers; waxes, such as beeswax, ozokerite wax, paraffin wax, plant extracts, such as Aloe vera, cornflower, 10 witch hazel, elderflower, cucumber; thickeners; activity enhancers; colourants; perfumes; and sunscreen materials such as ultrafine titanium dioxide and organic sunscreens such as p-aminobenzoic acid and esters thereof, ethylhexyl p-methoxycinnamate, 2-ethoxyethyl p-methoxycinnamate and butyl methoxydibenzoylmethane; and skin benefit agents, such as retinoic acid, retinol, retinol esters; anti-inflammatory agents, such as salicylic acid; skin whiteners, such as arbutin and mixtures thereof.

15 Cosmetic adjuncts can form the balance of the composition.

Use of the Composition

15 The composition according to the invention is intended primarily as a product for topical application to human skin for the treatment and/or alleviation of dry skin conditions, especially as an agent for reducing the 20 permeability of water through the skin, particularly when the skin is dry or damaged, in order to reduce moisture loss and generally to enhance the quality of skin. The composition can also be applied to hair and nails.

25 In use, a small quantity of the composition, for example from 0.2 to 5 ml, is applied to exposed areas of the skin, from a suitable container or applicator and, if necessary, it is then spread over and/or rubbed into the skin using the hand or fingers or a suitable device.

METHOD OF TREATMENT

The invention also provides a method for the treatment and /or alleviation of skin dryness conditions which method includes topically applying to the skin a cosmetic composition which comprises:

- 30 (i) a lipid component chosen from ceramides, pseudoceramides, polyol fatty acid polyesters, phospholipids, galactosyldiacylglycerols, glycosphingolipids, succinic acid derivatives, and mixtures thereof;
- (ii) an organic acid component chosen from hydroxycarboxylic acids, keto carboxylic acids, esters thereof and mixtures thereof; and
- (iii) a cosmetically acceptable vehicle.

PRODUCT FORM AND PACKAGING

35 The topical skin, hair or nail treatment composition of the invention can be formulated as a lotion having a viscosity of from 4,000 to 10,000 mPas, a fluid cream having a viscosity of from 10,000 to 20,000 mPas or a cream having a viscosity of from 20,000 to 100,000 mPas, or above. Alternative product forms include liquids, 40 microemulsions, a sera, mousse and gels.

45 The composition can be packaged in a suitable container to suit its viscosity and intended use by the consumer. For example, a lotion or fluid cream, or the alternative product forms can be packaged in a bottle or a roll-ball applicator or a propellant-driven aerosol device or a container fitted with a pump suitable for finger operation. When the composition is a cream, it can simply be stored in a non-deformable bottle or squeeze container, such as a tube or a lidded jar.

The invention accordingly also provides a closed container containing a cosmetically acceptable composition as herein defined.

EXAMPLES

50 The invention is illustrated by the following examples:

Example 1

55 This example illustrates a suncare cream:

	Ingredient	% w/w
5	2-hydroxy-n-octanoic acid	1
	Ceramide-1	0.01
	Silicone oil 200 cts	7.5
10	Glycerylmonostearate	3
	Cetosteryl alcohol	1.6
	Polyoxyethylene-(20)-cetyl alcohol	1.4
15	Xanthan gum	0.5
	Parsol 1789	1.5
	Octyl methoxycinnate (PARSOL MCX)	7
20	Perfume	qs
	Colour	qs
	Water	to 100

25 Example 2

This example illustrates a non-aqueous skincare composition:

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	<u>Ingredient</u>	<u>% w/w</u>
5	Silicone gum SE-30 ¹	10
	Silicone fluid 345 ²	20
	Silicone fluid 344 ³	55.79
10	Squalene	10
	Ceramides	0.01
	Linoleic acid	0.01
15	Cholesterol	0.03
	2-hydroxy-n-octanoic acid	0.7
	Vitamin A palmitate	0.5
	Vitamin E linoleate	0.5
20	Herbal oil	0.5
	Ethanol	2

25 ¹ A dimethyl silicone polymer having a molecular weight of at least 50,000 and a viscosity of at least 10,000 centistokes at 25°C, available from GEC

30 ² Dimethyl siloxane cyclic pentamer, available from Dow Corning Corp

35 ³ Dimethyl siloxane tetramer, available from Dow Corning Corp

40 Example 3

45 This example illustrates a suntan lotion:

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Ingredient	% w/w
2-keto octanoic acid	0.2
5 Ceramide-2	0.02
10 Acetulan (cetyl acetate and acetylated lanolin alcohol)	4
15 Propylene glycol	3
20 Stearic acid	2
Dow Corning 556 fluid (phenyl dimethicone)	1
25 Veegum (modified magnesium aluminium silicate)	1
Cetyl alcohol	0.5
Triethanolamine	0.5
Octyl methoxycinnamate	1
Oxybenzone	1
Preservatives	qs
Water	to 100

Examples 4 & 5: Comparative Examples A-D

In vivo efficacy test

To establish effectiveness in vivo of lipid and α -hydroxy acid combinations, a dry flaky skin condition was first induced in subjects with soap washing over a period of one week in the winter season. When dryness had been produced, subjects were treated with lotions containing lipids and α -hydroxy acids twice daily. Each day the subjects skin condition was assessed by visual grading of the skin by expert assessors, on a scale of 1 to 5 of increasing dryness. The efficacy of the lipid plus α -hydroxy acid mixture was demonstrated by improved recovery of the skin condition compared with lotions containing only lipid and lotions containing only α -hydroxy acids. This is represented by percentage improvement where 0% means no recovery and 100% means full recovery. For each of the treatment groups 10 subjects participated. Results are shown in Table 1.

Example

- 4 4% lipid component [ceramide II, cholesterol and stearic acid (1:2:1 w/w)] 1% glycerol, 8% glycolic acid
- 5 4% lipid component [phospholipid, cholesterol, stearic acid (1:2:1 w/w)] 0.7% hydroxycaprylic acid
- A 8% glycolic acid only
- B 4% lipid component only (ceramide II, cholesterol, stearic acid (1:2:1 w/w))
- C 8% hydroxycaprylic acid only
- D 4% lipid component only (phospholipid, cholesterol and stearic acid (1:2:1 w/w))

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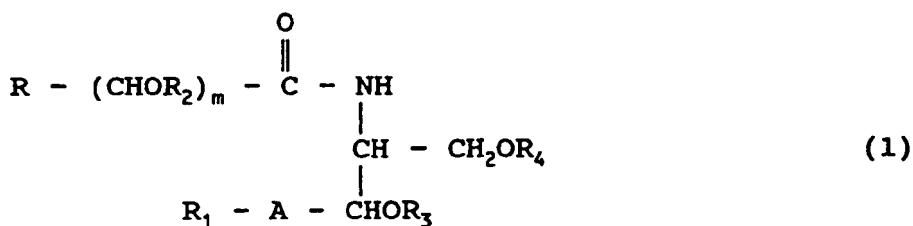
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Table 1

EXAMPLE	% Improvement for No of Days of Treatment		
	1	3	6
4	53.8	66.5	66.6
A	6.25	18.8	18.8
B	25.0	44.8	49.0
5	17.4	34.0	52.3
C	6.7	0	0
D	0	12.5	25.0

Claims

1. The use of a composition for topical application to skin, hair or nails comprising:
 - (i) a lipid component chosen from ceramides, pseudoceramides, polyol fatty acid polyesters, phospholipids, galactosyldiacylglycerol, glycosphingolipids, succinic acid derivatives and mixtures thereof;
 - (ii) an organic acid component chosen from hydroxycarboxylic acids, keto carboxylic acids, esters thereof, and mixtures thereof; and
 - (iii) a cosmetically acceptable vehicle;
 for the treatment and/or alleviation of dry skin conditions.
2. The use of a composition according to claim 1 wherein the composition comprises 0.00001 to 50% by weight of the lipid component (i).
3. The use of a composition according to claims 1 or 2 wherein the composition comprises 0.01 to 20% by weight of the lipid component (i).
4. The use of a composition according to any one of claims 1 to 3 wherein the composition comprises 0.1 to 10% by weight of the lipid component (i).
5. The use of a composition according to any preceding claim wherein the composition comprises 0.01 to 20% by weight of the organic acid component (ii).
6. The use of a composition according to any one of claims 1 to 5 wherein the composition comprises 0.05 to 10% by weight of the organic acid component (ii).
7. The use of a composition according to any preceding claim wherein the composition comprises 0.1 to 2% by weight of the organic acid component (ii).
8. The use of a composition according to any preceding claim wherein the lipid component (i) is chosen from ceramides having the general structure (1)



where A represents - CH_2 -; - CHOR_5 -; - $\text{CH}=\text{CH}$ - or - CHOY -

R represents a linear or branched saturated or unsaturated, hydroxylated or non-hydroxylated aliphatic hydrocarbon group having from 1 to 49 carbon atoms or a subgroup (2).



5 R₁ represents a linear or branched, saturated or unsaturated, hydroxylated or non-hydroxylated aliphatic hydrocarbon group having from 8 to 28 carbon atoms;

R₂, R₃ and R₅ individually represent H, a phosphate residue or a sulphate residue;

R₄ represents H, a phosphate residue, a sulphate residue or a sugar residue;

a is an integer of from 7 to 49

10 b is an integer of from 10 to 98

m is 0 or 1

Y represents H or a residue of a C₁₄₋₂₂ fatty acid having the general structure (3)



where

20 Z is - OH or an epoxy oxygen

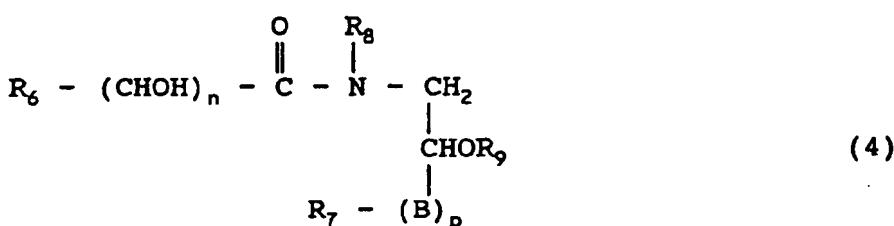
x is an integer of from 12 to 20

y is an integer of from 20 to 40

and

z is O or an integer of from 1 to 4;

25 Pseudoceramides having the general structure (4)



35 where B represents - OCH₂ - or CHOH

R₈ represents a linear or branched, saturated or unsaturated, hydroxylated or non-hydroxylated aliphatic hydrocarbon group having from 1 to 49 carbon atoms or the subgroup (2).

40 R₇ represents a linear or branched, saturated or unsaturated, hydroxylated or non-hydroxylated hydrocarbon group having from 8 to 28 carbon atoms.

R₆ represents H, or a subgroup - (CH₂)_cCOOH, where c is an integer of from 1 to 6, or a subgroup having the structure (5).



where X₁, X₂ and X₃ each individually represent H, a C₁₋₅ alkyl or a C₁₋₅ hydroxyalkyl;

d is 0 or an integer of from 1 to 4

e is 0 or 1

n is 0 or 1

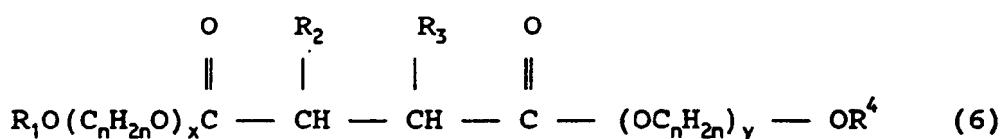
and

p is 0 or 1;

R₉ is H, a phosphate residue, a sulphate residue or a sugar residue;

phospholipids;
 polyol fatty acid polyester;
 succinic acid derivatives having the general structure (6);

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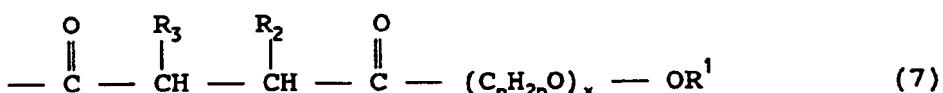
in which R_1 represents an alkyl, alkenyl, mono- or dihydroxyalkyl or hydroxyalkenyl group having from 6-22 carbon atoms;

R_2 and R_3 individually represent H or an alkyl or alkenyl group having from 12 to 22 carbon atoms; providing that when R_2 is H, R_3 is an alkyl or alkenyl group and when R_3 is H, R_2 is an alkyl or alkenyl group;

15

R_4 represents hydrogen, an alkyl, alkenyl, mono- or dihydroxyalkyl or hydroxyalkenyl group having from 6 to 22 carbon atoms or the group (7):

20



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n is an integer of from 2 to 3

x and y are average degrees of alkoxylation, namely x is from 0 to 20 and y is from 1 to 20; and mixtures thereof.

30



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where X is H - or $\text{CH}_3(\text{C}_f\text{H}_g)_h$ -

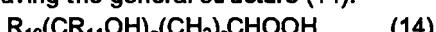
f is an integer of from 1 to 27;

g is an integer of from 2 to 54, and

h is 0 or 1.

40

hydroxymonocarboxylic acids having the general structure (14):



where R_{10} and R_{11} are individually H or an alkyl, aralkyl or aryl group of saturated, unsaturated, branched or unbranched chain or cyclic form having 1 to 25 carbon atoms
 where

45

q is an integer of from 1 to 9, and

r is 0 or an integer of from 1 to 23;

hydroxydicarboxylic acids having the general structure (15)

50



where

55

q is an integer of from 1 to 9, and

r is 0 or an integer of from 1 to 23;

hydroxycarboxylic acids having the general structure (16)



where q and s are individually an integer of from 1 to 9;

and R₁₂ is H, alkyl, aralkyl or aryl group of saturated or unsaturated, straight or branched chain or cyclic form having from 1 to 25 carbon atoms.
and mixtures thereof.

5

- 10. The use of a composition according to any preceding claim wherein the organic acid component (ii) is chosen from 2-hydroxyoctanoic acid, glycolic acid, lactic acid and mixtures thereof.
- 10. The use of a composition according to any preceding claim, wherein the composition additionally comprises a fatty acid.
- 12. The use of a composition according to any preceding claim wherein the composition additionally comprises sterol.

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European Patent
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EUROPEAN SEARCH REPORT

Application Number
EP 93 30 5736

DOCUMENTS CONSIDERED TO BE RELEVANT			CLASSIFICATION OF THE APPLICATION (Int.Cl.5)		
Category	Citation of document with indication, where appropriate, of relevant passages	Relevant to claim			
X	EP-A-0 340 592 (HENKEL KOMMANDITGESELLSCHAFT AUF AKTIEN) 8 November 1989 * the whole document * ---	1-10	A61K7/48 A61K7/06		
X	EP-A-0 474 270 (UNILEVER NV) 11 March 1992 * page 1 - page 3 * * page 4, line 1 - line 8 * * page 7, line 15 * * claims 1,2,5-7,14,15 * ---	1-10			
X	DE-A-24 36 468 (HENKEL & CIE GMBH) * the whole document * ---	1-10			
X	WO-A-88 06880 (R.I.T.A. CORPORATION) * page 4 - page 5 * * claims 1-10,12-15,26 * ---	1-5,7,8			
A	US-A-4 363 815 (R. J. YU) * the whole document * ---	1-12	TECHNICAL FIELDS SEARCHED (Int.Cl.5)		
A	WO-A-90 01323 (J. BERNSTEIN) * the whole document * -----	1-12			
			A61K		
The present search report has been drawn up for all claims					
Place of search	Date of completion of the search	Examiner			
THE HAGUE	20 December 1993	Sierra Gonzalez, M			
CATEGORY OF CITED DOCUMENTS					
X : particularly relevant if taken alone Y : particularly relevant if combined with another document of the same category A : technological background O : non-written disclosure P : intermediate document					
T : theory or principle underlying the invention E : earlier patent document, but published on, or after the filing date D : document cited in the application L : document cited for other reasons A : member of the same patent family, corresponding document					